



BASECAMP FOUNDATION KENYA

BASECAMP FOUNDATION KENYA

PROGRAMS REPORT



Table of Contents

1.0 Overview about BCFK projects & intervention 1

2.0 Programmatic Progress of each project 1

 a. Covid -19 potential impacts to our programs & beneficiaries 2

 b. Early Childhood Education and Education Sector (CBEI)..... 3

 c. Girls rescue & protection..... 3

 RESCUE OF FAITH SIPANTO- class 6 4

 d. Baba/Mama Sessions..... 4

 e. Bonga program 5

 Re-activation of Bonga centers & establishment of sewing social enterprises..... 5

 f. Community Managed Saving Groups 6

 Key Highlights of CMSG Project Results: 6

 CMSG Project Results Analysis of Covid -19 impacts: 6

 IGAs Recovery Strategy:..... 6

 CMSG Success Story: 7

3.0 Social Franchising 8

 Key Highlights of Social Franchising Project Results: 8

4.0 Community Institution & Leadership 9

5.0 Accomplished Results/Outcomes. 9

7.0 Challenges 11

8.0 Recommendations & Way forward 11

1.0 Overview about BCFK projects & intervention

BCFK is a non-profit organization that is working towards transforming communities in Maasai Mara through innovative projects that spur sustainable community development. This is done through implementation of projects in partnership with Stromme Foundation in the areas of education, empowerment, environment, entrepreneurship and clean energy which have been undertaken successfully in Narok South, Koyiaki Location, within the Naboisho Conservancy in Talek.

Working in the villages adjacent to the Naboisho Community Wildlife Conservancy, various programs were designed and implemented in six thematic areas namely: Community Based Education Intervention Project (CBEI); Mara Naboisho Adolescent Girls Empowerment Project (Bonga); Mara Naboisho Community Managed Micro Finance Project (CMMF); Community Empowerment Centre for Maasai Mara (Talek Green Centre); Community Institutions and Leadership (Green Villages) and Mara Girls Leadership School (MGLS). Naboisho Conservancy is one of the community managed wildlife conservation areas that lie adjacent to the State run Maasai Mara National Reserve.

Activities under the Community Based Education Intervention (CBEI) project include Baba & mama sessions, BOM capacity empowerment, Early Child Development. It also aims on improving, maintaining and developing school infrastructure as a complement strategy for, providing high-quality education to children, promoting retention and improving performance of children. On its part, the Bonga program specifically targets, adolescent girls and young mothers in order to address challenges associated with negative cultural practice such as, early marriage, female genital mutilation and early childbirth. The community managed saving groups (CMSG) project aims at empowering women by providing an avenue by which they can, save, invest and access loans to start micro and small businesses.

The Talek Green Centre is a community education and empowerment center that is intended to serve as a demonstration center for sustainable development concepts. These concepts include solar energy solutions, a showcase of micro -small businesses and innovations in the Mara. The Community institution & leadership program (Green Villages) aims at promoting development concepts addressed and acquired at the Green Centre at village level. Its main focus is to providing access to adequate clean water for domestic and livestock use, improve access to quality education for all children, address illiteracy among women and youth through vocational skills trainings, providing access to renewable energy and sustainable waste management.

The Mara Girls Leadership School (MGLS) is a model school established by BCFK with an overall goal of securing primary education leading to successful graduation for the most talented vulnerable girls during their most sensitive school years (classes 6, 7 and 8). In the context in which the Naboisho and Maasai Mara community life, Basecamp seeks to protect wildlife and the ecosystem, particularly focusing on working with landowners. This project intervention is critical because wildlife forms an integral part of the community's culture, economy and future prospects.

2.0 Programmatic Progress of each project

BCFK commitment to support communities continues with us making great strides in our work. Our holistic programming approach that we have always relied on ensures targeted interventions are able to achieve better health outcomes, have improved livelihoods and communities are able to live their lives

with dignity. Beyond the circumstances that they find themselves in, our work in Maasai Mara is providing avenues for community women and young people to be self-reliant.

Earlier in the year we joined the annual tripartite meeting with Stromme Foundation (SF) to reflect on our organization's work progress following the performance of the subsequent year. The exercise culminated in development of the annual logical framework that continues to guide our work over planned projects implementation with the seven programming pillars.

Despite the dramatic changes brought about by the outbreak of Covid -19 pandemic, BCFK sustained all of its programs & continued to pursue strategies to maintain access to education in poor rural communities through community-based learning. BCFK has also embarked on approaches to economically and socially empower women through mobile phone banking. Social franchising project was sustained & continues to increase uptake on sustainable energy products. Communities institutions are also strengthen with the capacity to continue functioning in spite of Covid-19 pandemic. Access to clean & safe drinking have been secured as well as provision of health care services have been sustained.

Below is the summary of key projects accomplished and their results, the report will preserve some details for the additional reports on Covid-19 response, which is provided, in a separate report attached on the main report. The following is a snap shot of key activities implemented during the reporting period of January to August 2020.

a. Covid -19 potential impacts to our programs & beneficiaries

As an organization we fully recognized the threats of Corona pandemic to our programs simply because we are a social entity working with communities that many times requires social gatherings, together with the senior management our first line of action was to secure our members of staffs by sending everyone home during the onset of the pandemic, we later streamlined our operations by observing world health organization Covid -19 protocols and thirdly explored on avenues to secure the communities we work with. BCFK intervention approach specifically focuses on partnering with community members since they will be proactive in implementing the activities on their own to ensure everyone is aware of the preventive measures of Covid-19 as well as innovative approaches to improve their livelihoods. BCFK approach has been pegged on three integrated actions; direct relief food support, Health and hygiene outreaches and Public and community awareness outreaches.

Given the three approaches, our responses as well were designed to follow formal criteria of phases. Three phases of interventions were set, namely

1. Phase 1: Turbulence response (public awareness outreaches & direct food relief)
2. Phase 2: Stabilization (public awareness, direct food relief, provision of learning materials, health & hygiene outreaches)
3. Phase 3: Total Recovery (IGAs recovery, schools re-opening outreaches, health & hygiene outreaches)

During this reporting period, we completed phase 1 & part of phase 2 of covid-19 responses that encompass community awareness outreaches, direct food relief and health & hygiene outreaches.

b. Early Childhood Education and Education Sector (CBEI)

The overall goal of BCFK education intervention is to ensure access to education for all. Due to prolonged schools closure as a result of Covid-19 outbreak, which do not only affect pupils, teachers and parents but also have far-reaching economic and societal implications. BCFK has been working in line the government protocols. The recent report released by the Ministry of Education highlighted the possibility of schools being re-opened next year in 2021. To us that will be an extensive period of time to keep learners at home, therefore, we tool several actions to provide learning materials & sanitary towels to the 48 MGLS students and those at the 19 partner schools are yet to be supported with printable learning materials. More action plans are also underway to reinforce implementation of covid -19 protocols to enhance community based learning. A lot of other rapid actions were already taken such as:

- ❖ Girls rescue
- ❖ Baba/mama sessions

c. Girls rescue & protection

According to recently published reports, it's noted that the potential impacts of Covid-19 are more severe to disadvantaged children than those from stable or well off families. During the month of July we received several reports of hundreds of girls getting pregnant everyday, which is indeed a situation in the entire Country. About 12000 cases of girls' pregnancies have been reported in Narok County alone.

During the month we received reports of one girl running away for marriage. Her story is as follows:



Sipanto Ikokia class pupil of MGLS rescued from early marriage at her home

RESCUE OF FAITH SIPANTO- class 6

She got married on the 26th June 2020

On 11TH July she was found by the Chief after we sent word everywhere about her missing.

The young man who married her got arrested the same day and has been under police custody.

We went to the Children's office to report the case on 24th July.

We visited her home on the 30th of July after which we realized they were relocating to another village the same day.

We realized, as an organization she lacked basic needs, foodstuff and a lamp to use for reading.

On the 6th of August we followed her to her new home, bought a few food stuffs, clothing, sanitary towels and took to her home, she is safe where she is.

We will continue to monitor her to ensure she is fine and doing well.

As we report Sipanto is in safe hands - the government is keenly following her case

d. Baba/Mama Sessions

This program aims at improving access to education for children in rural, underprivileged hardship areas. Through BCFK endeavors to enhance community capacity, it is recognized that building effective partnerships between parents and schools to support children's learning leads to improve learning outcomes. Parents are the first and continuing educators of their children.

Precisely some key worries and concerns observed among learners by the parents include those relating to behavior change, managing emotions, building relationships, strengthening social skills, and dealing with peer pressure.

During this times where the schools are closed due to COVID 19, adolescents at this stage are more prone and vulnerable to high-risk situations and may easily submit to it. It has been observed that many adolescents are able to deal effectively with these challenges, while some struggle more than the others. How well an adolescent deals with these issues is decided by the parenting styles. It is the duty of the parents to teach children factors that include their personality, psychosocial support from the environment (that includes parents, teachers and peers), and life skills they possess.

In the month of July, we hosted two-Baba/Mama sessions, one at Olemoncho primary and a second one in Reker Primary. We hosted about 60 parents in both sessions. This kind of dialogues helps parents to reflect & adjust their parenting styles. By the end of the sessions we realized many parents were able to identify their role as very key to the learners ambitions and dreams in life, It was also a privileged used in addressing the adoption of new norms at home to secure a good learning environment for pupils during this time where schools are closed.

e. Bonga program

Re-activation of Bonga centers & establishment of sewing social enterprises



BCF team handing over sewing machines to Olkimitare Bonga Center

The process of Bonga centers re-activation has begun. We are working with the government authorities to secure permits to allow provision of life skills training for out of school adolescent girls to continue. Currently we have 149 young adolescent girls undertaking life skills trainings. Through Community health & hygiene outreaches, the 10 Bonga centers have been sensitized on Covid-19 protocols. In Q1 42 Bonga support team of 13 men and 29 women were recruited to support in monitoring the activities of 6 Bonga Centers.

From January up to date 30 sewing machines were distributed to 10 Bonga Centers in readiness for the launching of sewing social enterprises. The sewing machines will enable girls to engage in income generation by exercising skills earned during vocational trainings. We are working with the government authorities to secure permits to allow small classes to move on.

f. Community Managed Saving Groups

Continuous monitoring & supervision of groups has been sustained. A total of 95 groups visited. CBFs were also engaged during Covid-19 campaigns and have been of great help. From field observations, there is increased in the number of members using mobile phone money services, for instance out of 1838 members registered under CMSG 1712 are using Mpesa. The amounts of saving have gone low and lower day by day due to Covid- 19 shuttering income sources. A strategy in IGA recovery is also at the center of organization agenda for discussion.

Key Highlights of CMSG Project Results:

- 95 Groups; 60 supervised and 35 self-managed.
- 856 Members with viable IGAs/ Enterprise.
- 1,861 Members in total participating in savings; 1,838 women & 23 men.
- 2,309,990 Kenya Shillings, total value of savings.
- 1,274,100 Kenya Shillings, value of loans taken.
- 622 730 Kenya Shillings value of social funds kitty.
- 1 CMSG Federation formed.
- 37 Groups preparing to graduate

CMSG Project Results Analysis of Covid -19 impacts:

- We have seen increased in the number of loan taken Increased umber of loans taken
- Amount of saving has significantly reduced due to collapsed of IGAs & loss of jobs for others
- The groups are no longer able to enjoy life skills sessions due to government restrictions in social gathering
- Saving groups faces threats of loosing savings if Covid-19 persist thus a rapid response will help if explored.

IGAs Recovery Strategy:

- ✓ In order to fast track IGAs recovery a capacity building is recommendable to craft ways in which saving groups can adopt their micro-business to the new norm. Many of the IGAs haven't been re-design to fit the new norm thus the reason of being desolated.
- ✓ There is also an opportunity in business skills training of groups to identify opportunities created by the new norm
- ✓ Partnership & collaboration with saving groups through Covid -19 food relief fund will help in boosting IGAs and helping the community to access market for their products
- ✓ Linkages to financial institutions is another window to explore in order for groups to access soft loans if possible or other essential services
- ✓ We are also exploring Government collaborations in terms of institutions created to build community resilience over future pandemic response.

CMSG Success Story:

With Basecamp Foundation's interventions, all the trainings and facilitations have helped various families start businesses, provide for their families, which have improved their lives significantly.

Noomali Njapit is from Endoinyo-Erinka Village. A 38 years old lady married, with seven children- 3 boys and 4 girls, a member of Eluai saving group that started at the year 2017.

During the dialogue she started by appreciating Basecamp Foundation. "I am very appreciative for this project as it has made us recognize that we are more capable. Earlier, we had no chance of learning, saving and development, but this is precisely what this project has imparted to the community more on me",

Nomali

says.

She anticipates that other women will all embrace and adopt the project for this attentive insight and that they will be heartened to form or join saving groups.

"I use to believe that being a house wife was a role I am meant to play for the rest of my life as it has been the norm from my mothers and entire maasai community, being illiterate and with no knowledge of much made it easy for me to diminish and perform housewife duties". She narrates.

"I will certainly not forget the time I joined Eluai savings group. Joining this group changed my life. In the beginning it was a bit challenging for me to save any money, because I didn't have any income activity except depending on my husband for everything. Nonetheless I did, starting with small ratios I cut from the money my husband gives for food. Before long I could borrow at least KES 3,000 from the group to buy 2 bales of maize flour and sell at home. In 2018, the group allowed me to take a loan of KES 12,000 at 5% interest and I immediately bought few items sold in all-purpose shops and started selling it in my village. Just half a year later I had built a small iron sheet shop to sell with instead of my house" Nomali says.

During this pandemic season Nomali explained how her business got affected that it almost closed. However, when the foundation started food reliefs program to support the vulnerable groups especially the women within the project areas, she decided to apply for a tender to supply maize flour.

She said that Basecamp approved her application and those were the best news she has received since the pandemic started. "I was able to supply 29 bales of maize flour and my business was up and running again". She says with a smile on her face.

She still was so emotional of how through the saving groups program she was able to learn so much that all she wants is to make groups in her village work hard and built success within them.

During one of the food distribution's sessions at Endoinyo-Erinka village she was amongst speakers encouraging the congregation to stand by saving groups and community projects because all the help and support are through them, both self and well-wishers help.

Her courage is extreme.



Sintoyia CMSG supervisor addressing saving groups in E/Erinka during food relief distribution

3.0 Social Franchising

On solar franchising the project has successfully grown its sales to 103 home solar, 13 sun bells and 23 clean cooking stoves. We currently have 12 water filters in our stores with 2 water filters given out to agents as samples for showcasing to the community. This leads to both economic empowerment of CMSG groups and improves quality of life through clean energy provision. The 21 solar agents were maintained & benefitted from continuous sales of products with an agreed commission payable to them by end of every month.

Key Highlights of Social Franchising Project Results:

- 2 Primary schools supported with solar lamps for use in the library.
- 116 Households in different villages using efficient energy solutions comprising of efficient cooking stoves, solar energy units and water filters.
- 400 People using clean solar energy in different villages in Maasai Mara.



CMMSG Project officer demonstrating Home Solar to solar Agent in Nkoilale

4.0 Community Institution & Leadership

Under Green villages concept that embraces the use of renewable energy and other livelihoods techniques that conserves the environment as well building the capacity of community civil societies; there was the establishment of Olare –Orok community based development organization (CDO) which was undertaken under the banner goals of Green Villages Concept to act on behalf of Olare village, representing the community in resource mobilization, planning, development and partnership. Through the formation of Olare CDO, we have seen community working together towards a common goal of developing their village. Recently the CDO water council received water management & maintenance training facilitated in partnership with Africa water bank, mobilized funds to construct a borehole in Olare Orok School and has been a great help in implementation of Bonga & CMMSG programs. There is need to continue empowering CDOs as the community platforms for sustainable development.

5.0 Accomplished Results/Outcomes.

Program	Activity	Output Results	Achieved Results
CBEI	Baba & Mama sessions mobilization	Two meeting held	60 Baba & Mama sensitized in matters to do with responsible parenting.
	Improve ECD play ground	1 play group furnish with equipment	1 play ground equipped
	Provision of Desk to Primary School	52 donated to Rehero ECD center	Improved learning environment
Covid-19	Access to secure & relevant information	10 awareness sessions held	Sensitized the community on how to protect themselves from Covid-19
	Access to family food	667 families provided	Sustained community

	packages	with food relief	
	Access to student package	48 pupils from MGLS supported with learning materials & sanitary towels	Sustained continuous learning
Bonga	Community mobilization to re-activate Bonga centres	8 centers in preparations to re-open.	Enhanced life skills sessions
	Distribution of sewing machines	30 sewing machines distributed to 10 Bonga centers	Sewing enterprises established with target to benefits over 900 bonga girls.
	Mobilization and establishment of Bonga Centres	6 mobilization conducted	
	Bonga girls recruitment	149 girls recruited to undertake life skills	
	Recruitment & training of BST Committee	42 BST trained	BST capacity strengthened
CMSG/Social franchising	Groups supervision – ensuring groups continue saving through Mpesa	95 saving groups supported	Continuous access to financial savings
	Continue franchising sales		Continuous delivery of products to agent sustained
	Visit & Supervision of all supervised groups	60 groups	
	Annual Evaluation of existing groups	95 groups	
	CBFs quarterly meetings	4 meeting held	
	Community Mobilization to verify & evaluate group performance	300 participants	300 participants
	Federation/Clustering Training	1	1 formed and trained
	Loans procedures training	1 training held	Improved access to loans
Community Institution & Leadership	Mobilization on youth opportunities & engagement (youth Café)	70 youths engaged on the role of youths to combat Covid-19, Skills gaps, environmental conservation, & entrepreneurial opportunities.	Youth equipped with knowledge & skills to pursue available opportunities
	Quarterly dialogue with CSOs and government focal point	1 Meeting with the Ministry of Gender & child protection held in Narok	Enhanced child rights protection

7.0 Challenges

- a. Covid -19 threats to the implementations of organization programs such as CMSG, Bonga & CBEI due to government restrictions
- b. Community ability to practically adapt new norms, there is lots of cracks when it comes to Covid-19 protocols implementation that puts the community at high risk of contracting the virus. There is need to promote health & hygiene outreaches to sensitize the community to take actions to minimize the spread of corona virus.
- c. Increased girl's pregnancy/early marriages threatening the future of girls' education. High girls pregnancy is an associate consequence of prolong school closure, cultural climate & moral decay among young people.
- d. Mobility challenge due to extensive scope of programs implementation. Running the entire organization operations with a single vehicle has been a huge challenge. We need a second vehicle or at least a new vehicle thus reduces maintenance cost.

8.0 Recommendations & Way forward

- Due to unpredicted crisis of Covid-19 pandemic leading to increased poverty, the organization needs to re-align its budget to help the community in economic recovery for instance by promoting local businesses during Covid-19 food relief distributions.
- Adapt new strategies in order to enhance the impacts of programs for instance by boosting dwindling IGAs under CMSG & Bonga, address girls pregnancy, develop counseling programs on adolescence/ a rescue center for special needs children.
- With uncertainty strife and Covid -19 holding the potential to impact every organization there is need to re-design our interventions with Covid-19 in mind.